

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing protection against an unexpected change in value of an intellectual property asset, comprising:

- (a). obtaining a description of at least one intellectual property asset of a first party,
- (b). determining a value of said at least one intellectual property asset,
- (c). determining a cost of providing compensation for an unexpected change in value of said at least one intellectual property asset, and
- (d). offering to provide compensation for at least a portion of any unexpected change in value of said at least one intellectual property asset to a person with an interest in the first party.

2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

- (e) obtaining a first fee in exchange for offering to provide compensation.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein step (d) includes providing an evaluation of said at least one intellectual property asset.

4. A method according to claim 2, wherein step (d) includes providing an evaluation of said at least one intellectual property asset.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein steps (a) - (d) are executed by, or on behalf of, an offeror, further comprising:

- (f) accepting the offer to provide compensation,
- step (f) being executed by said person with an interest in the first party.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein step (f) includes paying a second fee to the offeror.

part 17. A method according to claim 2, wherein steps (a) - (e) are executed by, or on behalf of, an offeror, further comprising:

(f) accepting the offer to provide compensation,
step (f) being executed by said person with an interest in the first party.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein step (f) includes paying a second fee to the offeror.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein said value includes at least one future value of said at least one intellectual property asset, and said unexpected change in value is determined at the time for which said at least one future value was determined.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said value further includes a current value of said at least one intellectual property asset.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein said intellectual property asset includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of patent rights, patent application rights, trademark rights, service mark rights, copyright rights, trade secret rights and trade dress rights.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein said person with an interest in the first party includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of the first party, an officer of the first party, a director of the first party, a prospective purchaser of said at least one intellectual property asset, an officer of the prospective purchaser, and a director of the prospective purchaser.

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein said person with an interest in the first party includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of an officer of the first party, a director of the first party, a prospective purchaser of said at least one

intellectual property asset, an officer of the prospective purchaser, and a director of the prospective purchaser.

14. A method according to claim 1, wherein said person with an interest in the first party includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of a prospective purchaser of said at least one intellectual property asset, an officer of the prospective purchaser, and a director of the prospective purchaser.

15. A method according to claim 1, wherein said unexpected change in value is based upon a legal determination of at least one of invalidity and unenforceability of said at least one intellectual property asset.

16. A method according to claim 1, wherein said value of said at least one intellectual property asset includes at least one of a financial value and a monopolistic right.

17. A method according to claim 1, wherein step (b) includes analyzing the validity of said at least one intellectual property asset.

18. A method according to claim 1, wherein step (b) includes assigning a monetary value to said at least one intellectual property asset.

19. A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one intellectual property asset includes at least one patent right.

20. A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one intellectual property asset consists of patent rights.

21. A method according to claim 1, wherein the offer to provide compensation is made to said party with an interest in the first party in connection with transfer of ownership of said at least one intellectual property asset to a second party.

32. A method of insuring against a risk of an unexpected reduction in value of a patent right, comprising:

- (a). assigning a value to the patent right while the patent right is owned by a first party,
- (b). estimating the likelihood of an unexpected reduction in value of the patent right, and
- (c). agreeing to provide compensation to a person with an interest in the first party for at least a portion of any unexpected reduction in value of the patent right during a particular period of time after receipt of an insurance premium, the insurance premium being paid in connection with a transfer of ownership of the patent right.

23. A method of providing protection against an unexpected change in value of at least one intellectual property asset, comprising:

- (a). obtaining a description of said at least one intellectual property asset owned by a first party,
- (b). determining a value of said at least one intellectual property asset,
- (c). determining a cost of providing compensation for a future unexpected change in value of said at least one intellectual property asset, and
- (d). agreeing to provide compensation to a person with an interest in the first party for at least a portion of any future unexpected change in value, the agreement being made in connection with a transfer of ownership of said at least one intellectual property asset to a second party.

24. A data processing system for use in administering an insurance program to insure the value of an intellectual property asset, comprising:

(a). means for receiving a first numerical input which includes at least one of the following numerical values or sets of values:

(i). a first numerical value or set of values which is representative of the likelihood that the intellectual property asset would be found valid if the validity of the asset was determined by litigation,

(ii). a second numerical value or set of values which is representative of a predicted appraised value of the intellectual property asset during a particular period of time, and

(iii). a third numerical value or set of values which is representative of the likelihood of a competitive patent causing a significant reduction in the predicted appraised value of the intellectual property asset during a particular period of time, and

(b) means for calculating a proposed insurance premium based upon at least the first numerical input.

25. An insurance proposal form, comprising:

a plurality of first pattern areas including alphanumeric characters representing a set of insurable intellectual property assets owned by a first party,

a plurality of second pattern areas including alphanumeric characters representing a likelihood that one or more particular intellectual property assets in the set would be found valid and/or enforceable if their validity and/or enforceability was determined by litigation, and

a plurality of third pattern areas including alphanumeric characters representing a proposed premium for insuring against an unexpected change in value of at least a portion of the set of insurable intellectual property assets.

26. An insurance proposal form according to claim 25, further comprising a plurality of fourth pattern areas including alphanumeric characters representing a person designated to receive the insurance proposal form, said person being a party with an interest in the first party.

27. An insurance proposal form, comprising:

a plurality of first pattern areas including alphanumeric characters representing a set of insurable intellectual property assets owned by a first party,

a plurality of second pattern areas including alphanumeric characters representing a proposed premium for insuring the proposed set of insurable intellectual property assets, and

a plurality of third pattern areas including alphanumeric characters representing a second party designated to receive the insurance proposal form, the second party being a proposed purchaser of the set of insurable intellectual property assets.

28. A computer-generated insurance policy form offering to insure at least a portion of the value of at least one intellectual property asset exclusive of legal fees, the insurance policy form being generated in connection with a proposed transfer of ownership of said at least one intellectual property asset.

29. A computer-generated insurance form for protecting a right to practice technology which is described in an agreement to transfer intellectual property assets of a company, the computer-generated insurance form being generated in connection with a proposal to transfer ownership of the intellectual property assets from a first party to a second party.